THE RAGTIME SOCIETY

DEDICATED TO THE PRESERVATION OF CLASSIC RAGTIME

R.D. BOX 8 KING, ONT., CANADA

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This month, as promised, we are attaching the programme that Max Morath gives out on his college concert series. Max was kind enough to provide us with sufficient of these programmes so that you could all have a copy. As many of you know, Max brings each month more young people into the Ragtime sphere. This is not to suggest that the rest of us are fast approaching the grave; however, these young people will keep the interest in classic Ragtime alive long after some of us are gone.

In this issue we are also reproducing some interesting pictures of Brun Campbell and the fascinating letter that he sent in January, 1951, to Mike Montgomery. Mike has kindly loaned us this valuable letter and the photographs.

In addition to the regular departments, we also have a list of some eleven tunes that we are able to make available to you from Roy Carew. These are all Jelly Roll Morton tunes, published by Roy's music company, Tempo-Music.

PERSONALITIES

Bob Darch leaves the Escape Hotel in Ft. Lauderdale on May 11th., and opens May 15th. at Mickey Mantle's Holiday Inn in Joplin, Missouri. Bob will be playing in Joplin up to approximately July 15th. He will then likely come to Toronto for 5 weeks, commencing July 15th., then the Club 76 in Winnipeg for 4 weeks, and back to Toronto at the Club 76 for 4 weeks.

Johnny Maddox: John is currently playing at the Club 76 in Toronto and will be here into May. We have heard some nice things from some of you who saw the TV programme with John and myself, and we are glad you liked it.

RECORDS

We will not be reviewing any records this month, but hope to have some interesting information for you next month on the English record by Roy Weatherburn. We are trying to make arrangements to have this record made available in North America. We are also trying to make some negotiations about producing the first LP record by the Ragtime Society. We won't say any more at this time but we can assure you that if all goes well you will be hearing lots more from us on this matter.

BRUN CAMPBELL'S LETTER TO MIKE MONTGOMERY

Dear Mike,

The S in my first name stands for Sanford. Full name is Sanford Brunson Campbell. The information you ask me for, I can only give you some of it, for some of the points are copyrighted. Yes, I still have the half dollar. No, my records on West Coast were made from masters I cut for the album. I made 12th St. first about two years ago on my own lable "Brun". They used it on Echos lable along with my composition Weeping Willow Rag, which I cut for them. You can notice on Weeping Willow Rag I use my foot to keep the tempo, and on 12th St. Rag I took the front out of the piano and use my right foot to get the effect of a Bass Fiddle playing with me. I used old pianos to get the old "Front Parlor" sound of the 90's. If the writing on the lable of Weeping Willow Rag read composed by Brun Campbell then it's in my hand writing. Compare my writing with the writing on lable. Rudi probably got my Weeping Willow Rag confused with Joplin's Weeping Willow Rag, or the Weeping Willow Rag by Chas Johnson, or maybe Clarence Williams Weeping Willow Rag, but any way, you can rest assured the one I played on the Echos lable is my own composition. No I never made any Rolls. Besides Weeping Willow Rag, my other compositions are Chestnut St. in the 1890's, Essay in Ragtime, Ginger Snap Rag. I also made my own version of 12th St. Rag which you have and my own version of Frankie & Johnnie. I have written the story of Euday Bowman, composer of 12th St. Rag, which will be out in the Jazz Journal of London this month (Jan). Yes, I think Ragtime if all you youngsters will really take an interest in it and pass it on to the next generation will keep going, there is an awful upsurge of Ragtime all over the world. My mail tells me that. The enclosed pictures at the left is yours truly sitting at the piano talking with Les Keonig, President of Goodtime Jazz records, Turk Murphy in plaid shirt leaning on piano, and of course S.B.C. at the piano in righthand picture. Write my line, I am always glad to hear from Ragtime fans. Best wishes to you all.

Sincerely,

Ragtimeingly Yours,

S. B. Campbell.

FROM THE SECRETARY'S DESK

As we do from time to time, we would like to share with you some of the information that we receive in the correspondence that crosses Jim Kinnear's desk every month.

Joe Smith is 14 years old. He is a very active correspondent. One of his recent letters details some information he found out about the Scott Joplin collection in the Fisk University library, Nashville, Tenn. Joe tells us that they will photostat the items of music for $1.15 a page. The Fisk University have 91 items from Scott Joplin. These include letters, music, etc. This collection was a gift to the University by Brun Campbell in 1948.

As you know, the largest group of Ragtime fans by profession are doctors. One of our musical M.D.'s, Bill Gould, has played intermission piano in a California coffee house. We reproduce in part his letter:

> "This weekend I am the featured intermission piano player at a local Palo Alto Coffee House. It is run by some friends of mine (also doctors). They have a folk song show every weekend which is frequented by the local Stanford students. Since ragtime, in the broad sense, is folk music, and since that emminent periodical of popular music, Time Magazine, recently printed articles on folk music and ragtime adjacent to one another, my friends thought they could get away with palming me off on their public with some classic rags. It went off very well. Last night I played The Easy Winners, Pineapple, The Pearls, Kansas City Stomps, Maple Leaf, Original Rags, Mr. Jelly Lord, and several others not quite in the same classical tradition. It is great fun and the crowd seemed to like the music. I think I even got one more subscriber to the Ragtime Society.
>
> Good Luck,
>
> Bill Gould."

Robert McWhirter in a recent letter takes issue with my statement that "Treemonisha" has never been performed in North America. A friend of his states that he saw it recently on TV. I know nothing about it. Can any of you enlighten me?

Harold Stern, of New York, sent us a very interesting story that he wrote on Max Morath last year, entitled, "He Proves Education Fun, Too."

SHEET MUSIC

Two things in the sheet music department this month. We are producing another piece of Society sheet music this month, and it is The Entertainer by Scott Joplin. This is really a delightful piece of music which was written in 1902 and dedicated to James Brown and his mandolin club. (Does anybody know who Jim Brown was?) The music is written in 'C', with the trio in one flat. It is one of my favourite Joplin tunes. I think

you will find it a pleasure to play. As with all Society reprints, it will be $1.00. We will have it published in one week's time.

For those of you who like Jelly Roll Morton music and have not been able to get it, we have been able to obtain from Roy Carew eleven tunes from his publishing company, Tempo-Music, all by Jelly Roll Morton. These are available at 50¢ a piece, and are printed on 8½ x 11 size sheets. The numbers available are as follows:

IF YOU KNEW (HOW I LOVE YOU)

SWEET SUBSTITUTE

MY HOME IS IN A SOUTHERN TOWN

WHY?

BIG FAT HAM

THE MISERERE

THE NAKED DANCE

BUDDY BOLDEN'S BLUES

WININ' BOY BLUES

MAMIE'S BLUES

THE CRAVE

Next month our Treasurer, Idamay MacInnes, will contribute a short write-up on Peter Lundberg's visit to Toronto. Peter, as almost all of you know, is one of our keen suscribers from Sweden. He has just completed a two month tour of North America. This tour was solely for the purpose of a Ragtime Pilgrimage. As part of his trip, Peter and his mother spent two days in Toronto. (Unfortunately, I only talked to him on the telephone as I was leaving one hour after he arrived for the West Coast of Canada).

Idamay and Jim Kinnear entertained him, and a good time was had by all. We will tell you more about it next month.

John A. Fisher,
Chairman.